

KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD NOTES

Volume 1, No. 1 Report of the February 5-6, 2003, Regular Meeting

STATE BOARD BRIEFED ON BUDGET CRISIS

Commissioner Gene Wilhoit updated the state board on the status of the budget crisis at the February meeting. He noted that the Governor's proposal to the legislature will contain some reductions to impact the deficit but said it will also include major revenue increases. Wilhoit indicated to Board members that the Department is urging school districts to work from a very conservative point of view relative to budget preparation due to the uncertainty of the approach the legislature will take and promised to continue regular communications to superintendents as the budget process unfolds. He urged the Board to be cautious of rumors that seem to be flying daily relative to this situation.

For more information on this topic, contact John Cubine at (502) 564-1976 or via email at jcubine@kde.state.ky.us.

BOARD HEARS UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO IMPROVING SERVICES FOR VISUALLY AND HEARING-IMPAIRED STUDENTS

At its February meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education received an update on activities related to improving services statewide for all students with visual and hearing impairments, including those enrolled at the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD). Department staff indicated that stakeholder groups are beginning to meet and noted their focus will be on providing input to the Board on how recommendations from the American Institutes for Research (AIR) study and a Department proposal could be implemented. Also, efforts to improve the instructional programs at KSB and KSD were shared with the Board.

Commissioner Gene Wilhoit emphasized that the members of the 18 stakeholder groups would design the work of the groups. He was clear that the work of the stakeholder groups would not be driven by Department staff but by the participants. Barbara Kibler, Team Leader for the Department's collaborative team, clarified that no decisions have been made by the Department on how services recommended in the AIR study and proposal are to be implemented and noted this will be the work of the groups.

Staff were also asked to respond to concerns expressed by constituents relative to the closing of KSB and KSD. Ms. Kibler clarified that the Department has no plans to close these schools. It was also clarified during the meeting that there will be a K-8 program at KSB and KSD.

Mr. Burt Boyer, a representative of concerned constituents from KSB, addressed the Board and offered the following recommendations:

- a) Add specific language to the Department's plan for improving services to visually and hearing-impaired students clarifying that placement occurs through the IEP process;
- b) Consider the development of a brochure for parents to explain service options;
- c) Consider combining some of the stakeholder groups into one K-12 comprehensive program group;
- d) Consider having an administrative person in charge of the program on the KSB campus with experience in the visually impaired/blind arena; and,
- e) Conduct a cost analysis on the reallocation of staff and dollars for administering regional services to determine if services would be diminished at KSB.

For more information on this topic, contact Johnnie Grissom or Barbara Kibler at (502) 564-4970 or via email at jgrissom@kde.state.ky.us or bkibler@kde.state.ky.us.

BOARD DIRECTS DEPARTMENT TO PURSUE COMPLETION OF PHASE I OF KETS

As part of its regular briefing on technology issues, the Kentucky Board of Education reviewed concerns from Department staff regarding the lack of completion by some school districts of items already funded through Phase I of the Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS). Staff noted that Phase I items were to have been completed by June 2000 and provided a list to the Board of those districts lacking completion in the areas of student email, installation of and direct dial-out capability from classroom phones and remote access outside the normal school day to email, the Internet and other electronic resources.

In response to the information on Phase I completion from staff, the Board approved a motion directing Department staff to:

- Request all districts to verify the accuracy of the Phase I completion report that was presented to the Board;
- For those districts lacking completion of Phase I items, convey that they must submit a plan for reaching full compliance of Phase I tasks by July 1, 2003; and,

- Relative to Department staff, ensure that assistance is provided to these districts in the completion of tasks and in developing local policies to overcome perceived barriers to implementation.

For more information on this topic, contact David Couch at (502) 564-2020 or via email at dcouch@kde.state.ky.us.

POLICY DISCUSSION HELD ON REFOCUSING SECONDARY EDUCATION

The state board was briefed on a new initiative by the Department to refocus secondary education. The guiding question for this initiative was identified as: “What can be done to make high schools a more powerful education experience?” Department staff shared that a workgroup has been assembled to develop a design for this effort, including members of the Department’s high school reform cross-agency team, the local project directors of the 2002 high school reform grants and representatives from postsecondary education/training. It was noted that the first meeting of the workgroup occurred on February 3. Recommendations from this workgroup will come back to the Board for consideration prior to implementation.

For more information on this topic, contact Lois Adams-Rodgers at (502) 564-5130 or via email at lrodgers@kde.state.ky.us.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED BY THE BOARD AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING WERE:

- December 11-12, 2002, regular meeting minutes and November 13, 2002, special meeting minutes
- District facility plans for: Hancock, Harrison, Lewis, Meade, Mercer and Rowan Counties and Cloverport Independent
- District facility plan amendments for: Carroll and Muhlenberg Counties
- 2002-2003 Local district tax rates levied
- 2002-2003 Local district working budget for Paducah Independent
- 702 KAR 7:125, Pupil attendance (Final)
- Attendance of and participation in Healthy Schools Network meetings by Sam Robinson

OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED BY THE BOARD WITH NO ACTION TAKEN WERE:

- KDE Employment Report
- Policies Related to Accountability for Commonwealth Accountability Testing System Performance for students attending A2-A6 schools
- Report on educator recruitment issues including Future Educator Clubs
- Covington Independent Update
- Paperwork reduction for schools and school districts
- Primary program evaluation discussion
- Evaluation of Kentucky’s Extended School Services Program

KBE MEETING DATES FOR 2003

<u>2003</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 2-3	Regular meeting	Frankfort
May 14-15	KBE retreat and preliminary budget discussion	*TBD
June 4-5	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 6-7	Regular meeting and commissioner's evaluation	Frankfort
October 8-9	Regular meeting	Northern KY
December 3-4	Regular meeting	Frankfort

*TBD – To be determined

For more information on the schedule contact Mary Ann Miller at 502-564-3141 (email mmiller@kde.state.ky.us) or Susan Palmer at 502-564-3141 (email spalmer@kde.state.ky.us).

The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the February 5-6, 2003, regular meeting conducted in the Ground Floor Auditorium and State Board Room, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky Board of Education, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Policy Coordinator at (502) 564-3141.

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